

The 5th Sunday before Advent & Bible Sunday

25th October 2020

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth

Hymn:

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Kneel.
Silence is kept.

Let your faithful love come unto me, O Lord, even your salvation, according to your promise:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path:

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; O seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments: Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word - We Stand

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.



Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 119 verses 9-16

How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;

do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart,

so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes.

With my lips I declare

all the ordinances of your mouth.

I delight in the way of your decrees

as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts,

and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The First lesson : Colossians 3 : 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Canticle : Venite Psalm 95: 1-7

O come let us sing out to the Lord;
let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his face with thanksgiving.

and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God.

and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth

and the peaks of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his and he made it,

his hands moulded dry land.

Come let us worship and bow down.

and kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is the Lord our God;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 24 : 30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he* is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon - Canon Michael Parker

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered

under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray - we kneel together

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.
Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.
O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.
Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.
O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

The Collect for Today

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

As we close our prayers we keep silence.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Go now in peace, knowing that you have been born again, not of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Parish Notices

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

Rector's Message : I wanted to let you all know that my wife Christine has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. She will be beginning chemo-therapy in the coming days. Before she can begin treatment at the hospital she is required to pass a Covid19 test and so we have been 'isolating' at the Rectory to avoid any undue delay in her treatment beginning. Your prayers for Christine, myself and Miriam would be much appreciated.

Our Church Office has reopened with three volunteers answering the phone - our thanks to Nanette, Mary and Helen for taking on this key role. Open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon. Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. Would you like a chat? Give us a ring on 91853810. Would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with the office and the team will pray for them.

Bangor Storehouse : This just in: "Storehouse North Down would like to thank you all for your very generous donation of groceries and monetary support at this harvest time.

We are overwhelmed by the support we are receiving. We are aware that there will be even more need as we go into another lockdown and with this support we will be able to fulfil all requests.

Christian Aid: An appeal has been launched to respond to the needs of overseas communities struggling with Cover 19. Aid agencies are working with partners to provide basic medical care & support - www.christianaid.ie to give directly. Or you can ring 9064 8133 to make a donation to the Belfast office.

Prayer for this Week

Perhaps one verse of Timothy Dudley-Smith's hymn "Lord for the years" might be our prayer this Bible Sunday and for the week ahead.

“Lord, for the word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts, and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people’s praise.”